

Collaborate



SHARE

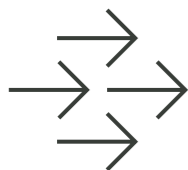
Share the scenarios with colleagues, leaders and citizens.

cyprusfutures.org/scenarios



CONSIDER

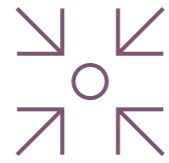
Consider the scenarios in your everyday context using the guidelines on the website.



ENGAGE

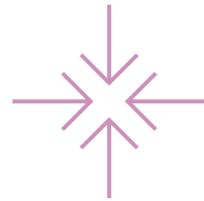
Engage with the media - print, TV, radio and social media.

[#cyprusfutures](https://twitter.com/cyprusfutures)



REFLECT

Reflect on the implications of your own actions and next steps.



ORGANIZE

Organize events for reflection and dialogue - briefings, presentations, workshops.



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Support the initiative by giving to support outreach activities.

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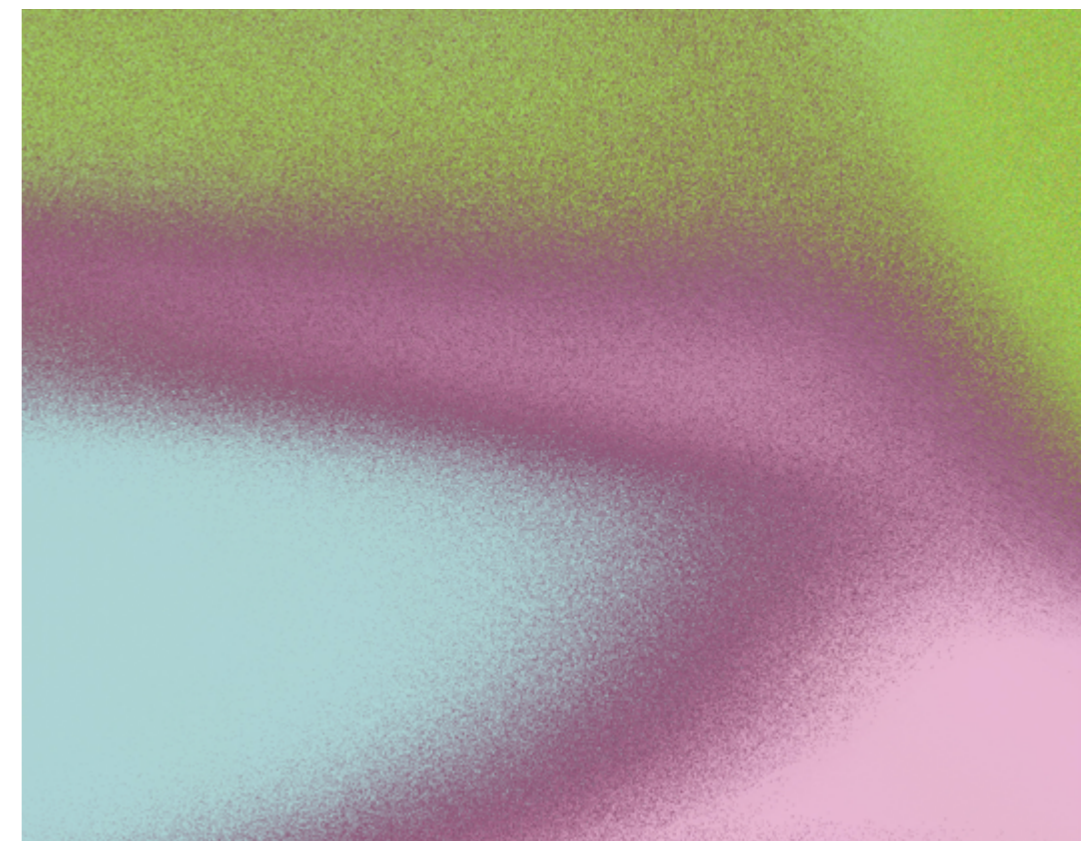


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LET'S TALK ABOUT CYPRUS



Let's talk about Cyprus!

Scenarios are stories. Human beings have always used stories to talk about things that are difficult, complex, or even taboo, to encourage a change in thinking, illuminate pathways, and inspire right action.

Climate change, migration, youth prospects, economy, governance - these are all issues that affect Cypriots across the island today. These concerns go beyond, but are connected to, the Cyprus problem.

Creating and telling stories about possible futures allows us to lift our gaze above our current stuck situation and polarised conversations into a longer time horizon and ask ourselves, "What could happen?"

What are scenarios?

The Cyprus Futures scenarios are stories about what could happen in the future from 2022 to 2035. They don't predict what will happen (forecasts), and they don't outline what should happen (recommendations).

There are many possible futures for Cyprus, but the Scenario Team chose to elaborate four imagined stories that they believe need to be told and understood about what could happen between now and 2035.

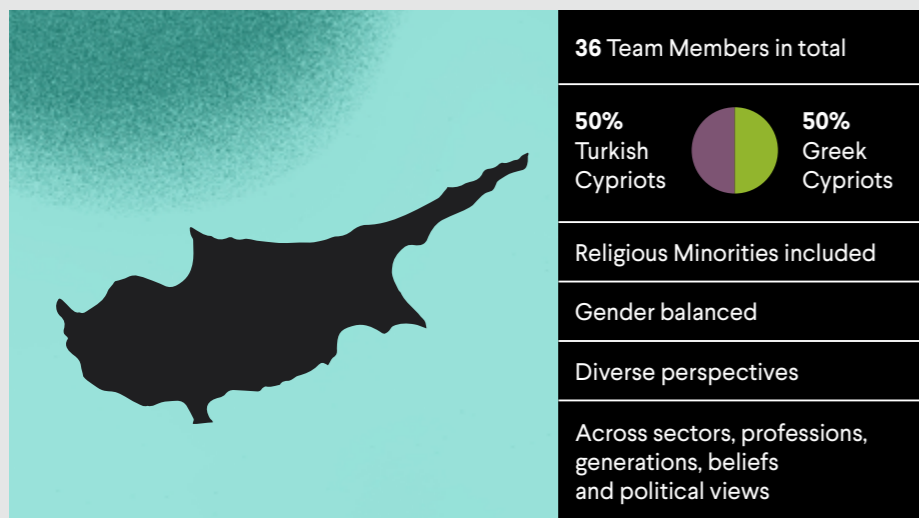
Each story, or scenario describes a separate "world" with distinct, and different realities. Together they are meant to feed into a wide and inclusive conversation in and around Cyprus about the opportunities and challenges facing the island.

The Cyprus Futures initiative welcomes reflection and discussion on these and other possible futures. Let's talk about (the future of) Cyprus!

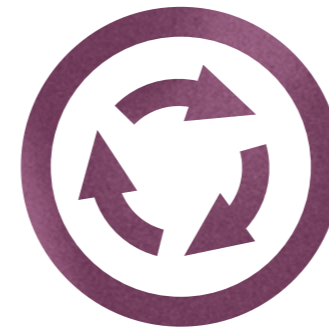
Who wrote them?

A very diverse Scenario Team voluntarily invested more than 15 days imagining, dialoguing and crafting the scenarios. The convenings were facilitated by Reos Partners using an internationally validated methodology called the "Transformative Scenarios Process".

PRIO Cyprus Centre and Result Mediation Foundation supported the process and funding was provided by the governments of the Netherlands, Norway (via PRIO), and Finland.



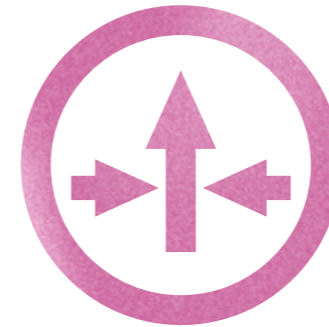
THE WORLD OF 'NO WAY'



A scenario of stagnation and inaction

In the world of 'No way,' hope for a better and more uplifting future comes and goes as new negotiations on the Cyprus problem begin and collapse once more. Disappointment and accusations further deepen the divisions between Cyprus' two main communities. Repeated rounds of failed talks, competing solution models, and a lack of transformative leadership hinders progress and feeds stagnation. It also diverts resources for tackling other challenges affecting daily life. The Turkish Cypriot administration continues to be increasingly dependent on and influenced by Türkiye*, and the northern part of Cyprus functions as a low-regulated zone for Türkiye's economy. For Greek Cypriots, the possibility of returning to land or property from which they were displaced in 1974 fades, and attention is mainly focused on security in the context of Türkiye's increased presence and militarization of the island. Few believe in a renewed peace process, but no one is willing or able to completely give up on it either. As a result, everyone involved in and affected by the Cyprus problem is kept stuck in suspension as the existing separation solidifies.

THE WORLD OF 'THEIR WAY'



A scenario of peace under pressure

In the world of 'Their way,' the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders experience considerable pressure from the external environment and from business lobbies to settle the Cyprus problem. They engage in high-level negotiations supported by the United Nations, which resemble previous rounds in the peace process in being leader-focused with little transparency or participation from civil society and in applying the principle 'nothing is agreed until everything is agreed.' Centering 'hard' political issues related to power-sharing, security, territory, and property, and increasingly relying on international experts for substantive advice, the talks charge ahead even though civil society actors raise concerns about the lack of public participation and the risks of not preparing communities for change. The public itself is not really engaged but is exposed to a smart communication campaign employing marketing techniques to influence public opinion. After ratification (approval) of the resulting peace plan, the federation is established with a high degree of decentralisation and little attention for creating effective federal institutions. Cracks soon start to emerge as economic integration proves challenging and the leaders have competing loyalties: to the federation and to their community whose support remains essential for remaining in office. Gradually, a split emerges between effective protective action at the constituent state level (directed against the other community) and indefinite debates at federal level. This reduces the legitimacy of and public faith in the federation and means people's loyalties are mainly directed to constituent states. It results in a set-up that deepens mistrust and divisions between the two communities and that cannot cope well with stress.

THE WORLD OF 'MY WAY'



A scenario of divergence and opposition

In the world of 'My way,' tensions on the island between Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots intensify rapidly as any prospect of a peace process evaporates. The UN Secretary-General suspends his mission of good offices from Cyprus indefinitely due to a lack of common ground and willingness to move on the part of both parties. Growing multi-polarity and increasing challenge to Western dominance in global governance characterise this context. The Turkish Cypriot leadership pursues an active policy of international engagement and recognition of the north as an independent state. This alarms Greek Cypriots greatly and also generates considerable tension within the Turkish Cypriot community. Recognition of the north by a few countries brings out strong reactions, as Greek Cypriots and Greece put up fierce resistance both on the island and outside of it through various measures and their membership of the EU and the UN. The economy in the north and Turkish Cypriots' mobility is affected, which highlights their continued isolation internationally. The impact of these measures is only partially reduced by foreign investment in the low-regulated north, the benefits of which are unevenly distributed. Regional tensions escalate as Greek Cypriots and Türkiye pursue hydrocarbon extraction without any agreement about overlapping claims in the sea.

THE WORLD OF 'OUR WAY'



A scenario of resilient peace

In the world of 'Our way,' an increasing number of Cypriots realise that other pressing challenges (current and future) are not effectively dealt with due to the ongoing focus on the Cyprus problem. Collaborative efforts remain limited in the face of ongoing division and political stalemate. Initial consultations by the UN with a broad range of stakeholders result in the leaders agreeing on a new approach to the peace process. With a focus on achieving 'resilient peace,' this approach involves a multi-track, participatory process which combines high-level talks between leaders with working groups, technical committees, and broad civil society engagement. It is driven from within and with support from UN and other international stakeholders. This unleashes much activity by different actors at various levels in society, but many Cypriots still have misgivings about the negotiations and possible changes, and some try to undermine the peace process. After ratification (approval) through separate referendums and careful technical preparation, the new federation emerges. Much attention is devoted to developing effective and legitimate public institutions at federal and constituent state level, with mechanisms for constructive dispute resolution and coordination, and including participatory governance, human rights, and social cohesion. This results in a federation that is resilient and inclusive, and a Cypriot citizenry that is proud of its plurality of cultures and peoples and its European identity.